

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COM-02 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: PROPOSED MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES FOR PROCESSED FRUITS
AND VEGETABLES--A TRADE APPROACH

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE CANNED FRUIT INDUSTRIES OF CALIFORNIA, AUSTRALIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA, AND EUROPEAN CANNED FRUIT IMPORTERS ASSOCIATIONS HAVE AGREED ON A CONCERTED EFFORT TO BLOCK IMPLEMENTATION OF A MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE SYSTEM FOR CANNED PEACHES. IF SUCH AN EFFORT IS UNSUCCESSFUL, THE TRADE WILL TRY TO INFLUENCE THE DRAFTING OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION. END SUMMARY.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CANNED PEACH INDUSTRIES OF CALIFORNIA, AUSTRALIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA HOSTED A MEETING ON DECEMBER 4, WITH MEMBERS OF EC CANNED FRUIT IMPORTERS ASSOCIATIONS. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM DEL MONTE INTERNATIONAL AND CALIFORNIA VALLEY EXPORTS. MISSION OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS ATTENDED AS OBSERVERS. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO AGREE ON A COORDINATED INDUSTRY APPROACH WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TRADE TO KILL OR DELAY

IMPLEMENTATION BY THE COMMUNITY OF A MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE
SYSTEM FOR CANNED PEACHES.

3. AFTER A THOUROUGH DISCUSSION ON THE DIFFICULTIES FORESEEN
IN IMPLEMENTING AN MIP SYSTEM AND ON THE DANGERS OF SUCH A
SYSTEM TO IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES, THE GROUP AGREED ON THE
FOLLOWING ACTION PROGRAM:

(A) EXERT ALL POSSIBLE PRESSURE ON NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR
NON-INTRODUCTION OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM.

(B) IN THE EVENT OF MEMBER STATES' DETERMINATION TO IMPLEMENT
THE SYSTEM, PRESS THEM FOR A POSTPONEMENT.

(C) IF MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS AGREE ONLY TO A POSTPONEMENT,
TAKE THE FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION:

---- WORK WITH THE COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT EVENTUAL MINIMUM IMPORT
PRICES, COEFFICIENTS, AND OTHER MECHANISMS HAVE A MINIMUM
DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON TRADE. IN THIS REGARD, THE PEACH
INDUSTRIES OF CALIFORNIA, AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WOULD
MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME TO THE TRADE AND THE
COMMISSION.

---- CONSULT WITH THE COMMISSION REGARDING THE MARKETS TO BE
CONSIDERED IN ASSESSING THE MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES.

---- CONVINCE THE COMMUNITY TO REDRAFT THE SECTION CONCERNING
IMPORT LICENSES AND DEPOSITS. THE PRESENT VERSION WILL
CREATE GREAT DIFFICULTIES FOR BOTH IMPORTER AND SUPPLIER.

4. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IMPORTING TRADE OFTEN EXPRESSED THE
VIEW THAT A MEETING ON AN ACTION PROGRAM SHOULD HAVE BEEN HELD
SOME TIME AGO. THEY TENDED TO BE PESSIMISTIC THAT APPROVAL OF
AN MIP SYSTEM CAN NOW BE STOPPED. HOWEVER, THEY DID SEEM TO
FEEL THAT, AT THE VERY LEAST, THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE
THE COMMUNITY IN THE FIXING OF THE LEVEL OF MINIMUM PRICES, ETC.
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